

10/591,105

REMARKS

Claims 32-40, 43, 44, 47, 51-54, and 56-58 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Nicolini '003 (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0145003 A1) in view of Yamaguchi '435 (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0178435), Patrick et al. '058 (FR 028 39 958) and D.A. Council '856 (U.S. Patent No. 3,064,856); claims 41 and 42 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Nicolini '003, Yamaguchi '435, Patrick et al. '058 and Council '856 and further in view of Forte '317 (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0140317 A1); claims 45, 46, and 55 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Nicolini in view of Yamaguchi, Patrick, D. A. Council, and further in view of Falk et al. '333 (U.S. Patent No. 4,108,333); claim 48 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable Nicolini '003, Yamaguchi '435, Patrick et al. '058 and Council '856 and further in view of M. H. Voigtritter '347 (U.S. Patent No. 2,531,347); and claims 59-62 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Nicolini in view of Yamaguchi, Patrick, D. A. Council, and further in view of Herbst et al. '731 (U.S. Patent No. 4,245,731). The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised obviousness rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 49 and 50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, the allowable subject matter of claim 49 plus the subject matter of claim 35 is incorporated into independent claim 32 and that amended independent claim is now believed to be allowable. As claims 33, 34, 36-48, 51-56 and 59-62 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 32, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

In addition, claim 50 is now amended to be an independent claim, i.e., to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s), and that amended independent claim is also now believed to be allowable.

Lastly, the subject matter of newly amended claim 32 is written in independent form as new claim 63 but this new claim replaces the "means" terminology with "mechanism" terminology. This new claim is believed to be allowable for the same reasons that claim 49 is allowable over the art of record.

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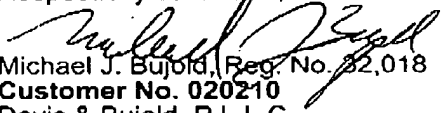
If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that further comments concerning the applied art of Nicolini '003, Yamaguchi '435, Patrick et al. '058, Council '856, Forte '317, Falk et al. '333, M. H. Voigtritter '347 and/or Herbst et al. '731 is not necessary. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018
Customer No. 020210
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.
112 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301-2931
Telephone 603-226-7490
Facsimile 603-226-7499
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com

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